

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 13, and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11, 14-21, 23, and 25-30 remain pending in the present application. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 23-25, 27, and 28 if rewritten in independent form and including the features of any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 16, 20, 21, 26, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,157,630 to Adler et al. ("Adler"). Claims 9, 19, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 2, indicated as allowable over the art of record, and claim 2 has been subsequently canceled. Claim 11 has been amended to include the features of claim 13, indicated as allowable over the art of record, and claim 13 has subsequently been canceled. Claim 21 has been amended to include the features of claim 24, indicated as allowable over the art of record, and claim 24 has subsequently been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 21 include subject matter indicated as allowable over the art of record and request that the §102 rejection of claims 1, 11, and 21 be withdrawn.

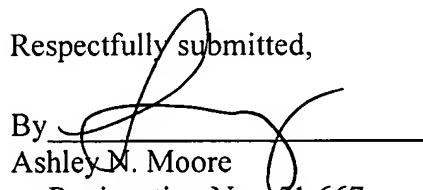
Claims 6, 10, 16, 20, 26, and 30 are directly dependent from one of claims 1, 11, and 21 and should distinguish over Adler for at least the same reasons as stated above. Applicants respectfully request that the §102 rejection of claims 6, 10, 16, 20, 26, and 30 be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 19, and 29 are directly dependent from one of claims 1, 11, and 21 and should distinguish over Adler for at least the same reasons as stated above. Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of claims 9, 19, and 29 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Ashley M. Moore

Registration No.: 31,667
JENKENS & GILCHRIST, A PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 855-4500
Attorneys For Applicant